

DEC-19-2003 15:46

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FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

To: Deborah Yee
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Company Name: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Fax Number: (571)273-1253

From: Thomas D. Robbins
202-721-8214

Date: December 19, 2003

Re: Application Serial No. 09/974,916, filed October 12, 2001
Our Ref: 2001_1481A

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES TRANSMITTED, INCLUDING COVER SHEET 2

Message: Dear Ms. Yee,

Per our conversation, the Applicants have granted authority to enter proposed Examiner's Amendment, as attached.



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3. (Proposed Examiner's Amendment) A method of forging a steel material, said method comprising:

providing adding a second steel material to steel to obtain a third material, the second material comprising containing at least one element metal from the group consisting of group consisting of V, Nb and Ta VB metals;

heating the third steel material to a temperature in a range of 1150 - 1250 °C;

forging the heated third steel material to a prescribed shape;

cooling the forged third steel material;

holding the cooled forged third steel material in a tempering temperature area of a furnace at a temperature in a range of 500 - 700 °C; and

cooling the cooled forged material to a normal temperature by natural cooling, so that carbon and nitrides that include V, Nb and Ta the second material precipitate on the steel material and a fine ferrite-perlite structure is formed.

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